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NEWS RELEASE

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Children's Conference Features Fatherhood Expert

He's been on Oprah and Good Morning America, writes for the New York Times and consults with the White House. Now, Dr. Kyle Pruett, a leading expert on the importance of fatherhood, will speak in Boise during the Early Years Conference, November. 16-17, at the Boise Centre on the Grove.

Pruett, a father of four, is professor of psychiatry at Yale and an international authority on child development. He wrote *The Nurturing Father*, a book about how fathers nurture differently than mothers. The public is invited to his free conference presentation, "America's Parental Dilemmas: A Father's Perspective," on Tuesday, Nov. 16, from 7-9 p.m.

More than 450 parents, child development professionals and educators from around the West and Canada are expected for the two-day conference. It features 45 90-minute workshops that focus on what's new and what's working for families with young children, according to Carolyn Kiefer, Director of the Idaho Head Start Collaboration at the Idaho Department of Health and Welfare.

"Dr. Pruett's appearance is going to be inspiring," Kiefer says. "Fathers are coming from all over, including a busload of dads from the Twin Falls Head Start Program on Fatherhood. They all want to hear how to be better fathers."

(more)

Neurons to Neighborhoods author Dr. Ross Allen Thompson also will provide a keynote address for the conference. Thompson will talk about current research on young children's brain development and how it can impact public policy. His address will be held Tuesday, Nov. 16, at 9:30 a.m. Thompson will present two additional sessions about nurturing relationships for healthy emotional development. "This conference addresses all aspects of healthy growth for Idaho's young children and their families," Kiefer says.

Singer Tish Hinojosa will close the conference Nov. 17 from 3:15-4:15 p.m., performing songs from her new cd, *"Cada Nino/Every Child."* One of 13 children of immigrant parents, she lives in Austin, Texas, tours Europe and America, and has appeared on the PBS music showcase, *Austin City Limits*. Her songs teach children about the rich mixture of American and Latino cultures.

Conference sponsors include the Albertson Foundation, Office of Governor Dirk Kempthorne, Idaho Department of Education, Idaho Association for the Education of Young Children, Idaho Children's Trust Fund, and the Department of Health and Welfare. For more information, contact Kiefer in Boise, 208-334-4919, or go to <http://www.idahochild.org>

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(Editors: For more information and to set up interviews with Dr. Kyle Pruett, Dr. Ross Allen Thompson, and Tish Hinojosa, contact Carolyn Kiefer, Director, Head Start Collaboration, Idaho Department of Health and Welfare, Boise, 208-334-4919. Media education/health reporters are invited to attend the conference at no charge.)